I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended): A method of effectively treating pain in humans, comprising orally administering to a human patient a therapeutically effective amount of a COX-2 inhibitor together with a dose of an opioid analgesic, wherein

the COX-2 inhibitor is ~~an oral dosage form consisting of (i)~~ nimesulide or ~~at least one~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and~~; (ii) oxycodone or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (iii) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.~~

the opioid analgesic is oxycodone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39-46. (Cancelled)

47. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein oxycodone and nimesulide are administered in a ratio of 10:1 ~~the ratio of oxycodone or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to nimesulide or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1~~.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 38, wherein the oxycodone is present in the pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

49. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein the COX-2 inhibitor is combined with carrier materials to produce a single dosage form having the COX-2 inhibitor and the opioid analgesic. ~~the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient is a sustained release carrier~~

~~which provides a sustained release of the oxycodone or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.

50. (currently amended): The method of claim 49 ~~claim 38~~, wherein ~~the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient~~ one of the carrier materials is a sustained release carrier. ~~which provides a sustained release of the nimesulide and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and oxycodone and/or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.

51. (currently amended): The method of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ nimesulide ~~or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ is present in an amount from about 0.5 mg to about 1500 mg.

52. (currently amended): The method of claim 51, wherein ~~the~~ nimesulide ~~or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ is present in an amount of 100 mg.

53. (currently amended): The method of any of claims 38, 47 or 49-52, wherein the ~~amount~~ dose of ~~the~~ oxycodone ~~or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the dosage form~~ is from 2.5 mg to 800 mg.

54. (currently amended): A method of effectively treating pain in humans, comprising orally administering to a human patient an oral dosage form consisting of (i) a COX-2 inhibitor ~~nimesulide or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ in an immediate release form; (ii) an opioid analgesic ~~oxycodone or at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ in a sustained release form; and (iii) and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient,

wherein the opioid analgesic is oxycodone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the COX-2 inhibitor is nimesulide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

55. (currently amended): The method of claim 54, wherein the dosage form comprises ~~the sustained release form consists essentially of the oxycodone in an amount of~~ from about 2.5 mg

to 800 mg ~~and a sustained release carrier in an amount such that said oral dosage form provides a therapeutic effect of the~~ of oxycodone and is administered 2 times per day ~~for at least 12 hours or longer~~.

56. (currently amended): The method of claim 55, wherein the sustained release form comprises a sustained release carrier ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of an alkylcellulose; a hydroxyalkylcellulose; an acrylic polymer; a fatty acid; a fatty alcohol; a glyceryl ester of fatty acids; a mineral oil or wax; a vegetable oil or wax; a polyalkylene glycol; shellac; zein; and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

57. (previously presented): The method of claim 54, wherein said pain is selected from the group consisting of cancer pain, post-surgical pain, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrheal, headache, toothache, pain from sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, injuries, influenza or other viral infections, and common cold.

58. (currently amended): The method of claim 54, wherein said dosage form comprises particles, wherein said particles have diameter of from about 0.1 mm to about 2.5 mm.

59. (currently amended): The method of claim 58, wherein said particles have diameter of from about 0.5 mm to about 2 mm.

60. (currently amended): The method of claim 54, wherein the COX-2 inhibitor in an immediate release form ~~nimesulide~~ is coated onto a tablet comprising the opioid analgesic ~~oxycodone~~ in the sustained release form.

61. (currently amended): The method of claim 56 ~~claim 55~~, wherein said sustained release carrier ~~being (i)~~ is applied as a sustained release coating; or ~~(ii)~~ is incorporated into a matrix along with the opioid analgesic ~~said oxycodone~~.

62. (currently amended): The method of claim 54, wherein said oral dosage form is administered once-daily ~~provides a therapeutic effect of said oxycodone for about 24 hours~~.

63. (currently amended): A method of effectively treating pain in humans, comprising orally administering to a human patient an oral dosage form consisting of a combination of a COX-2 inhibitor and an opioid analgesic in an admixture of excipients,
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor is ~~(i)~~ nimesulide or ~~and~~ at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; ~~(ii)~~ the opioid is oxycodone or ~~and~~ at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and said pain is pain without inflammation~~; and (iii) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient~~.

64. (currently amended): The method of claim 63, wherein the ratio of oxycodone ~~and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~ to nimesulide is 10:1 ~~and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1~~.

65. (currently amended): The method of claim 63, wherein ~~the at least~~ one ~~pharmaceutically acceptable~~ of the excipients is a sustained release carrier which provides a sustained release of the opioid analgesic ~~oxycodone and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.

66. (currently amended): The method of claim 63, wherein ~~the at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient~~ one of the excipients provides a sustained release of the COX-2 inhibitor ~~nimesulide and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.

67. (previously presented): The method of claim 63, wherein said pain is selected from the group consisting of cancer pain, post-surgical pain, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrheal, headache, toothache, pain from sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, injuries, influenza or other viral infections, and common cold.

68. (previously presented): The method of claim 38, wherein said pain is cancer pain, post-surgical pain, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrheal, headache, toothache, pain from sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, injuries, influenza or other viral infections, and common cold.

69. (new): The method of claim 38, wherein the COX-2 inhibitor and the opioid analgesic are administered in a single oral dosage form consisting of (i) the COX-2 inhibitor; (ii) the opioid analgesic, and (iii) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

70. (new): The method of claim 38, wherein 4 mg of nimesulide is administered.

71. (new): The method of claim 38, wherein said pain is pain without inflammation.

72. (new): The method of claim 38, wherein nimesulide and oxycodone are administered once-daily.

73. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein said pain is pain without inflammation.

74. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein a ratio of oxycodone to nimesulide in the dosage form is 10:1.

75. (new): The method of claim 63, wherein 4 mg of nimesulide is administered.

76. (new): The method of claim 63, wherein nimesulide and oxycodone are administered once-daily.